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For immediate release

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**Celebrate Banned Books Week at the Berkeley Public Library:
Read Aloud from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone***

Berkeley Public Library's Children's Services invites you to help us celebrate your right to read freely by reading aloud one of the most challenged books of the last 10 years: J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Join us outside the **Central Library, 2090 Kittredge (at Shattuck)** on **Monday, October 1, from 3 – 6 p.m.** as we read aloud from the first in the popular and critically acclaimed series.

Observed since 1982, Banned Books Week reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. Each year, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom receives hundreds of reports on books and other materials that were "challenged" (their removal from school or library shelves was requested). The ALA estimates the number represents only about a quarter of the actual challenges. "Most Challenged" titles include the popular "Harry Potter" series. The series drew complaints from parents and others who believe the books promote witchcraft to children.

Let your voice be heard! Share Harry's adventures as he shops for his first wand, takes the train to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and experiences the thrill of Quidditch.

For questions regarding this program, call 510-981-6223. This program is sponsored by Children's Services, Teen Services and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. For accessibility information, call (510) 981-6107 TTY (510) 548-1240, <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

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